

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

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FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7968

INFO US MISSION IAEA VIENNA 180

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: TECH, MX

SUBJ: DUAL PURPOSE PROJECT

REF: MEXICO 6697

SUMMARY: EMBASSY SUGGESTS DEPARTMENT CONSIDER INSTRUCTING
USDEL TO IAEA SEPTEMBER MEETING IN VIENNA TO EXPLORE INFORMALLY
ATMOSPHERE FOR REOPENING SUBJECT MATTER AT THAT CONFERENCE.
END SUMMARY.

1. BACKGROUND: A BREAKTHROUGH OF THE STALEMATED DUAL PURPOSE
PROJECT WAS ACHIEVED DURING THE IAEA GENERAL CONFERENCE HELD
IN MEXICO SEPT.-OCT. 1972 BY DIRECT RECOURSE TO HORACIO FLORES
DE LA PENA, GOM SECRETARY OF NATIONAL PATRIMONY AND
PRESIDENT

OF THE CONFERENCE, WITH THE RESULT THAT A JOINT MEETING ON THE
TECHNICAL LEVEL WAS HELD IN MEXICO CITY AT END NOVEMBER. THIS
MEETING DRAFTED AN ACTION PROGRAM INCLUDING A DRAFT BILATERAL
AGREEMENT REFERRED TO BOTH GOVERNMENTS FOR APPROVAL AND A
SCHEDULE OF SEISMOLOGICAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES TO BE
CARRIED OUT AT APPROPRIATE SITES IN THE SW US AND NW MEXICO
AREAS. THE TECHNICAL GROUP DECIDED TO MEET NEXT IN YUMA,
ARIZONA, IN EARLY FEBRUARY 1973.

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2. THE DEPARTMENT TOOK SPEEDY FAVORABLE ACTION ON THE DRAFT AGREEMENT IN MID-DECEMBER. FLORES DE LA PENA INDICATED HIS WILLINGNESS TO GO TO WASHINGTON WITH FOREIGN SECRETARY RABASA TO SIGN THE TEXT, BUT GOM INTEREST SEEMED TO FLAG AND THE YUMA MEETING WAS POSPONED SINE DIE.

3. IN THE EMBASSY'S OPINION, SHARED BY THE DEPARTMENT, THE GOM SIMPLY WAS NOT PREPARED TO GO AHEAD WITH THE DUAL PURPOSE PROJECT UNTIL THE COLORADO RIVER SALINITY MATTER HAD BEEN RESOLVED. ALTHOUGH COMPLETELY DISTINCT PER SE, THE TWO MATTERS HAD BECOME MERGED IN GOM THINKING. REALIZING THIS, THE USG DESISTED.

4. NOW THAT THE COLORADO SALINITY MATTER HAS BEEN SETTLED AND THE IAEA, UNDER WHOSE GENERAL AUSPICES THE ORIGINAL 1965-68 STUFN WAS MADE, IS MEETING AGAIN IN GENERAL CONFERENCE IN VIENNA STARTING SEPT. 18, THE MOMENT WOULD APPEAR RIPE FOR REOPENING THE MATTER ON THAT NEUTRAL GROUND.

5. ACTION PROPOSED: THE EMBASSY SUGGESTS, THEREFORE, THAT THE DEPARTMENT CONSIDER INSTRUCTING THE USDEL TO THE VIENNA MEETING TO EXPLORE THE MATTER INFORMALLY, TAKING ADVANTAGE OF THE FACT THAT FLORES DE LA PENA TOGETHER WITH THE DG AND DEPUTY DG OF THE INEN WILL ATTEND. FYI. THE FEASIBILITY OF REOPENING THE MATTER AT THIS TIME MOTIVATED A CALL BY DR. DAVID COPE OF ORNL, US CO-CHAIRMAN OF THE WORKING GROUP, TO THE EMBASSY SCICOUNS ON SEPT. 10. THIS POSSIBILITY WAS DISCUSSED INFORMALLY ON SEPT. 12 BY SCICOUNS WITH LUIS GALVEZ CRUZ, INEN SUBDIRECTOR AND MEXICAN CO-CHAIRMAN OF THE JOINT WORKING GROUP, FINDING FAVORABLE ECHO.

DR. FRIEDMAN, HEAD DIP, AEC, BROUGHT THE MATTER UP IN SEPT. 13 TELECON WITH THE EMBREP AND WAS INFORMED OF THE CONVERSATION WITH GALVEZ CRUZ. FRIEDMAN PLANS TO CHAT WITH THE LATTER IN VIENNA. END FYI.
DEAN

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